

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0667

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY, US

SUBJECT: FONMIN RAMPHAL INVITES SECRETARY KISSINGER TO VISIT GUYANA

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REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0662; (B) GEORGETOWN 0665

1. IN ADDITION TO TOPICS COVERED DURING MY INITIAL MEETING WITH
FONMIN RAMPHAL ON APRIL 27 AND REPORTED REFTELS, HE HANDED ME
ORIGINAL AND OPEN COPY OF LETTER ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER.
ORIGINALLY WILL GO FORWARD AN CLASSIFIED POUCH MAY 2. TEXT IS AS
FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE:

27 APRIL, 1974

I HOPE YOU AGREE THAT THE FRANK AND FRIENDLY CHARACTER OF
OUR EXCHANGES ON HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS IN RECENT WEEKS JUSTIFIES,
INDEED, COMMENDS THE INFORMALITY OF MY SO ADDRESSING YOU. THE
REASONS I WRITE ARE TWO-FOLD.

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FIRST, AS I RETURN TO GEORGETOWN FROM THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, I DO SO WITH HAPPY RECOLLECTIONS OF MY OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR MANY KINDNESSES ON THAT OCCASION. I HAD, AS YOU KNOW, SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT SO EARLY A RESUMPTION OF THE 'DIALOGUE'; AS IT TURNED OUT, I BELIEVE THE OVERALL RESULTS HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL. ADDITIONALLY, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE DIALOGUE INFUSED THE CONSULTATIONS IN ATLANTA AND THIS IS, INDEED, AN ACHIEVEMENT. I AM SPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CALL AT ATLANTA

THAT ALL THE PARTIES TO THE DIALOGUE SHOULD PARTICIPATE FULLY IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS ALSO, AND I AM PLEASED THAT THE ASSEMBLY HAS TAKEN IMPORTANT STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION.

SECONDLY, I WRITE TO RENEW MY INVITATION TO YOU TO VISIT GUYANA AS PART OF YOUR FIRST SOUTH AMERICAN VISIT, AND TO DO SO IN AS RELAXED A MANNER AS YOUR CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WILL PERMIT. MY INTENT IS NOT SO MUCH TO PUT YOU 'ON PARADE'- ALTHOUGH SOME OF THIS WILL BE INEVITABLE- BUT TO GIVE A FURTHER DIMENSION TO OUR DIALOGUE IN WAYS THAT WOULD CONFIRM ITS REALITY TO OUR PEOPLE AND, I HOPE, AS REWARDING TO YOU ALSO. I SHALL BESAYING ALL THIS MORE FORMALLY TO AMBASSADOR KREBS; BUT I WISH YOU TO KNOW DIRECTLY FROM ME THAT IT IS NO MERE COURTESY.

WITH WARM GOOD WISHES,

I REMAIN,

(SHRIDATH S. RAMPHAL)
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

END QUOTE.

2. RAMPHAL HAD ALREADY RECOUNTED WITH EVIDENT GRATIFICATION HIS SEVERAL PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS WITH ECY KISSINGER AND HAD EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR SECRETARY'S MANAGEMENT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS REWATIONS WITH HEMISPHERIC NATIONS. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY FLATTERED BY INVITATION TO TRAVEL FROM NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON ONSSECRETARY'S PLANE AND FOR THE OPPORTUNITY
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TO CONTINUE THEIR "DIALOGUE" DURING FLIGHT. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD OVERRIDDEN OBJECTIONS WITHIN HIS OWN DELEGATION IN ACCEPTING SECRETARY'S INVITATION.

3. RAMPHAL SAID HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR DR. KISSINGER TO INCLUDE AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY ON ITINERARY FOR HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA AND HE FELT GUYANA WOULD BE LOGICAL CHOICE. HE IS PARTICULARLY EAGER TO BRING SECRETARY AND PRIME

MINISTER BURNHAM TOGETHER AS HE BELIEVES THEY HAVE MUCH IN COMMON AND WILL HIT OFF WELL ON PERSONAL BASIS. HE ADDED THAT PERSONAL RAPPORT IS IMPORTANT TO BURNHAM AND THAT LATTER IN TURN WANTS TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE WITHIN NON-ALIGNED GROUP.

4. WITH REGARD TO BILATERAL RELATIONS, RAMPHAL SAID HE AND BURNHAM HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT USG AND GOG HAVE SOMEHOW DRIFTED AWAY FROM VERY CLOSE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP THEY DEVELOPED PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE AND DURING EARLY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE. BOTH HE AND BURNHAM WANT TO REVERSE THIS TREND AND FEEL THAT ARRIVAL OF NEW US AMBASSADOR IS PROPTIOUS MOMENT TO START THIS PROCESS. THEY VISUALIZE VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AS IMPORTANT IN GIVING PUBLIC IMPETUS AND RECOGNITION TO THIS NEW DIRECTION.

5. RAMPHAL INSISTED, AS STATED IN HIS LETTER, THAT HE AND BURNHAM WOULD WISH TO HAVE MINIMUM OF PROTOCOL-TYPE ACTIVITY DURING VISIT. THEY WANT SECRETARY KISSINGER TO FEEL RELAXED AND AT EASE. THE REAL CRUX OF VISIT WOULD BE PRIVATE AND INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH BURNHAM AND RAMPHAL.

6. RAMPHAL SAID HE REALIZED THAT SECRETARY HAD RECEIVED INVITATIONS FROM A NUMBER OF LA GOVERNMENTS AND THE CONSEQUENT DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING UP AN ITINERARY WHICH WOULD NOT END UP CREATING MORE FRUSTRATION THAN POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT. HOWEVER, HE HOPES HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY, ADDED TO UNIQUE POSITION BURNHAM HAS CARVED OUT FOR GUYANA IN WORLD AFFAIRS, WILL WEIGHT BALANCE IN FAVOR OF HIS INVITATION.

7. COMMENT: RAMPHAL APPEARED QUITE SINCERELY TO BELIEVE THAT HIS PROPOSAL HAS A FIGHTING CHANCE. I AM AWARE FROM EARLIER EXPOSURE TO ARGENTINE FONMIN VIGNES' INSISTENT INVITATION THAT THERE MUST BE ENORMOUS PRESSURES INVOLVED IN TRYING TO WORK OUT
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AN ITINERARY WHICH IS PHYSICALLY REALISTIC AND AT THE SAME TIME DIPLOMATICALLY PRUDENT. I RECOGNIZE TOO THAT LOCAL FACILITIES ARE LESS THAN IDEAL). HOWEVER, I WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH FACTORS WOULD NOT OUTWEIGH THE SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, WHICH I BELIEVE ARE DESERVING OF CAREFUL THOUGHT. KREBS

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